

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated November 24, 2009. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

In the Final Office Action, the specification is maintained objected to for a lack of headings. Applicants respectfully decline to add the headings since the section headings may be inappropriately utilized in interpreting the claimed subject matter. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application, but per 37 CFR 1.77 are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. . . . [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77").

In the Final Office Action, "[i]t is noted by the Examiner that the Applicant has failed to disclose what the prior art is,

what problem and how the invention is trying to solve (for example, no distinction between Background of the Invention and Detailed Description of the Invention)." (See, Final Office Action, page 4.) This position is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the Applicants have completely complied with reach requirement for an arrangement of the specification as explained in more detail below.

The Final Office Action further continues that "[i]t is the Applicant's duty to follow the Arrangement of the Specification, even if no Background of the Invention is disclosed. The Arrangement of the Specification needs to be complied in before allowance of the application." It is respectfully submitted that the Applicants have completely complied with their duty to follow the arrangement of the specification as outlined in 37 CFR § 1.77, in a section entitled "Arrangement Of Application Elements", specifies that (b) The specification should include the following sections in order:

(1) Title of the invention, which may be accompanied by an introductory portion stating the name, citizenship, and residence of the applicant (unless included in the application data sheet).

The Applicants have provided a title on page 1, line 1 of the specification.

(2) Cross-reference to related applications (unless included in the application data sheet).

This section is not applicable to the present application.

(3) Statement regarding federally sponsored research or development.

This section is not applicable to the present application.

(4) The names of the parties to a joint research agreement.

This section is not applicable to the present application.

(5) Reference to a "Sequence Listing," a table, or a computer program listing appendix submitted on a compact disc and an incorporation-by-reference of the material on the compact disc (see § 1.52(e)(5)). The total number of compact discs including duplicates and the files on each compact disc shall be specified.

This section is not applicable to the present application.

(6) Background of the invention.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to a background of the invention, preceded by a space, on page 1, line 2 continuing through to page 2, line 3.

(7) Brief summary of the invention.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to a brief summary of the invention, preceded by a space, on page 2, line 6 continuing through to page 3, line 9.

(8) Brief description of the several views of the drawing.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to a brief description of the several views of the drawing, preceded by a space, on page 3, lines 12-21.

(9) Detailed description of the invention.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to a detailed description of the invention, preceded by a space, on page 3, line 24 continuing through to page 6, line 30.

(10) A claim or claims.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to claims, starting on a separate page, on page 7, line 1 continuing through to page 8, line 7.

(11) Abstract of the disclosure.

The Applicants have provided a section that corresponds to an abstract of the disclosure, forwarded from the corresponding international application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants have completely complied with their duty to follow the arrangement

of the specification as outlined in 37 CFR § 1.77. In addition, since the legislative history is clear that section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application, but per 37 CFR 1.77 are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, claim 9 is amended to clarify that which is recited in the claims. Support for the amended claim 9 is found, for example, on page 5, lines 14-25 of the specification and in the discussion of Figure 6. No new matter is added to the claims by this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), although it is believed to be a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,764 to Davis ("Davis") in view of "Multicast routing- algorithms and protocols: a tutorial", Network, IEEE, Jan/Feb 2000 vol. 14 Issue 1, ISSN 0890-8044), by Sahasrabuddhe ("Sahasrabuddhe"). The rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that

claims 1 and 3-9 are allowable over Davis in view of Sahasrabuddhe for at least the following reasons.

As refereed to by the Examiner, (Abstract and col. 1, lines 58-61) Davis describes "a single integrated circuit on a single semiconductor". Nothing in this description, other than the term "integrated circuit", discloses or is analogous to "a network and a plurality of first and second electronic modules arranged to communicate to each other via the network, the network is arranged to establish transactions between a first electronic module and at least two second electronic modules". Davis does not anticipate claim 1 by its mere recitation of the "integrated circuit".

The object of the invention of claim 1 is expressed on page 1, line 19 to page 2, line 18 of the specification and is a reduction of the burden on the master or first module. This object is achieved by providing on the network a means for replicating requests from the master and sending the replicated requests to the slave or second modules.

The Examiner references Davis col. 27, lines 38-40 and col. 51, lines 22-42. However, these references merely describe reading and mapping words "into the memory map at the appropriate address" and filtering of multicast addresses.

It is respectfully submitted that the integrated circuit of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Davis in view of Sahasrabuddhe. For example, Davis in view of Sahasrabuddhe does not teach, disclose or suggest, an integrated circuit that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "means for replicating a single request from the first electronic module into at least two replicated requests and for sending each of the at least two replicated requests to the respective second electronic modules, said means for replicating comprises an address space and a facility for mapping at least one multicast address onto at least two further addresses in a range of addresses of the second electronic modules" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited by claim 7. Sahasrabuddhe is cited to show other elements of the claims and as such, does not remedy the above discussed failings of Davis.

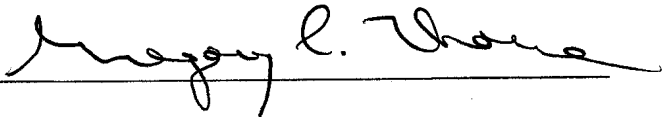
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Davis in view of Sahasrabuddhe and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 3-6 and 9 depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable

elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration and allowance of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position, or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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